



Bethany Presbyterian Church

Graham, North Carolina

www.bethanypreschurch.org

www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian

May 1, 2022 – 11:00 am

Third Sunday of Easter



"Sunlight on a wet street" - It's No Game

“Brother Saul, the Lord sent me—Jesus, who appeared to you on the way as you were coming here. He sent me so that you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”¹⁸ Instantly, flakes fell from Saul’s eyes and he could see again. He got up and was baptized.

Acts 9:17b (CEB)

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Welcome to our service of worship. Although we are worshipping in a variety of locations, we still affirm that God is present in our worship, whether in-person or virtually. Our prayer is that all who worship with us this day will truly feel the presence of God in this time. Know that you are loved and we are so glad you are here!

PRELUDE: *The Risen Savior’s Diadem*

W. A. MOZART/ARR. BY ERIC LEWIS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*OPENING SENTENCES

Luke 24:31-32

When Jesus speaks, our hearts burn within us;
our eyes are opened when he breaks the bread.

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. Grant that we who celebrate our Lord’s resurrection, may, through the renewing power of your Spirit, arise from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #423:** *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*

ISAAC WATTS

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run,
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And praises throng to crown His head;
His name, like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.

Blessings abound where'er He reigns;
The prisoners leap to lose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blessed.

Let every creature rise and bring
Peculiar honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen!

LITANY FOR EASTER

Our Eastertide litany will be spoken with a sung congregational response:

HYMN 591 *"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!" (Glory to God)*

Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SUNG RESPONSE: ***Hallelujah! Hallelujah!***

This is the good news which we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved:

SUNG RESPONSE: ***Hallelujah! Hallelujah!***

That Christ died for our sins, and was buried,
and rose again on the third day.

SUNG RESPONSE: ***Hallelujah! Hallelujah!***

He appeared to Mary, and to Peter, and to the twelve,
and to many faithful witnesses.

SUNG RESPONSE: ***Hallelujah! Hallelujah!***

At last he came to us, that we might believe
and proclaim this good news to the world.

SUNG RESPONSE: ***Hallelujah! Hallelujah!***

pause

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

HYMN 591 *"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!" (Glory to God)*

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES FOR RENEWAL

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

ENCOUNTERING SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 6:24

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 1176

ACTS 9:1-19A

PEW BIBLE, PAGES 1336

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT OURSELVES

The Spirit of God helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words. Let us come together to tell the truth about ourselves.

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

A MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

AN OFFERING OF GOD'S GRACE

Hear the good news of God's promise: I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! ***Thanks be to God.***

***RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE:** *He is Lord*

STEVE VEST

He is Lord, He is Lord!
He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!
Ev'ry knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess
That Jesus Christ is Lord.

BLESSING OUR GIFTS

***DOXOLOGY #592:** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

THOMAS KEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***HYMN OF THE DAY #321:** *Holy Spirit, Truth Divine*

SAMUEL LONGFELLOW

Holy Spirit, truth divine,
Dawn upon this soul of mine;
Word of God and inward light,
Wake my spirit, clear my sight.

Holy Spirit, love divine,
Glow within this heart of mine;
Kindle every high desire;
Perish self in Thy pure fire.

Holy Spirit, power divine,
Fill and nerve this will of mine;
By Thee may I strongly live,
Bravely bear, and nobly strive.

Holy Spirit, right divine,
Make my conscience wholly Thine;
Be my law, and I shall be
Firmly bound, forever free.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

THE WORD IN MUSIC: *Jesus, You're the Center of My Joy*

RICHARD SMALLWOOD

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Homily: *"Saul to Paul"*

REV. PHILLIPS

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; *therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!*

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

In every time and age, O God, it is good and faithful that we give you thanks...

...and with the saints of every age, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are you, O God, creator of all things... Remembering our Lord's self-giving love, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Blessed are you, O Spirit, giver of life... In the unity of the Holy Trinity, in gratitude for this great season of resurrection, we praise you, God of all that is, now and forever. We pray this and all things in the name of the One who taught us to pray in the language most familiar to us, saying:

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BY THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD AS WE LEAVE TO SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN #525: *Here I Am, Lord*

DANIEL L. SCHUTTE

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have born my peoples pain.
I have wept for love of them, They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them,
Whom shall I send? **(Refrain)**

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them,
Whom shall I send? **(Refrain)**

***SENDING**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. *Alleluia!*

Proclaim the good news, be persistent in prayer, do the work of the gospel, and carry out the ministry of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE: *Postlude on "Miles' Lane"*

WILL STOCKTON/ BASED ON TUNE BY WILLIAM SHRUBSOLE

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

Hymn Story

"Jesus Shall Reign Where're the Sun"

"Jesus Shall Reign Where're the Sun" is considered by many to be the first great missionary hymn. It was written at a time when the church was doing little missionary work.

Isaac Watts, the author, envisioned a day when Jesus would reign throughout the world — wherever the sun shines, from shore to shore. His original verses envisioned a time when all people — princes, savage tribes, people of all languages, even infants — would praise Jesus' name. Current hymnals have modernized the language somewhat.

If Watts were alive today, he would be amazed at the realization of his dream. As the sun makes its journey around the world on a Sunday morning, Christians in every time zone awake and get dressed and go to church to praise Jesus Christ. I think that Watts would be pleased.

Christ calls only a few of us to be missionaries, but he calls each of us to proclaim the Gospel. He calls each of us to give time and money to support the work of the church. He calls each of us to care about each other — and to care about people around the world.

As we sing this hymn, I invite you to do two things. First, consider all the Christians who have sacrificed comfort, safety — even life itself — to make Jesus known around the world. Second, ask yourself what Christ is calling you to do.

— Copyright 2006, Richard Niell Donovan



Our Faith Community @ Work

WORSHIP Ministry: (Lead Elders: Helen Brown and Karen Maxwell)

WELCOME to this service of worship at Bethany Presbyterian Church (PCUSA). Whether you are a member or a visitor we are so glad that you are worshipping with us this morning and pray that this time of worship will be both renewing and rewarding for you. If you have any questions about Bethany, please speak to the pastor or call the church at 336.227.4041.

You can find us online through our website at www.bethanypreschurch.org; on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bethanypresbyterian; or on Twitter by following [@bpresbyterian](https://twitter.com/bpresbyterian).

“I will show love to those who were called unloved and, to those who were called ‘not-my-people’, I will say ‘you are my people’ and they will answer, ‘you are our God.’” (Hosea 2:23) Bethany Presbyterian Church is a place where the mind is nourished as well as the spirit, and where we affirm the dignity and worth of every person. As we are all created in the image of God, we believe discrimination is incompatible with Christ’s Gospel of unconditional love. While we celebrate our Presbyterian identity, we acknowledge that we are not alone on the path to understanding God. We invite conversations that move us to seek a deeper understanding of life in the Spirit. **Be who you are and be welcome here.**

A Note About the Offering: As we have returned to worship as the pandemic has been becoming less and less a threat, we have continued the practice of not passing the offering plates at the time of the offering during our service, thus decreasing the threat of spreading germs. Instead, you are invited to make your contribution in one of four ways: drop it in the offering plate that is located at the narthex door (before worship) and in the narthex (following worship); mail it in to the church; drop it off at the church in person; or, use our quick and secure online giving platform. This can be accessed through our website, or by scanning the QR code on the last page of this bulletin. Thanks for your generosity and cooperation.

SERVE Ministry: (Lead Elders: Tina Patterson and Kim Snyder)

Our ongoing prayer list is below. Please let the church office know if there are any changes.

Bethany Members

Christopher Bagley
Sylvia Donley
Ruby Martin
Shelvia Russell

Katherine Bayliff
Henry Flythe
Laura Mitchell-Ayers
Mike Sutton
Ida Whitney

Family of Barbara Cousins
Pat Kennedy
Joyce & Norman Mize
Nancy Sutton

Friends of Bethany

Carol Brooks
Bill Faucette
Christy Lutterloh
Diane Miller
Peter Slater
Tiffany Tauchren
Teresa Wilborn
Frank Wrenn

Janie Holt Clapp
Ben Johnson
Gaynell McCollum
Norma Proctor

Alex Thomas
Deborah & Larry

Jack Cook
Grace Johnson
Anne McDaniels
Shannon Russell
Ann Sutton
Randy Thompson
Cindy Uzzo
Don Burenhiede

TEACH Ministry: (Lead Elders: Tracey Troxler and Shelby Smith)

All are invited to take advantage of the several educational opportunities for all ages on Sunday mornings. Sunday school classes begin at 9:45 a.m.

This Week's Calendar:

Today:

Sunday, May 1st :- Third Sunday of Easter & Communion

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (will return soon)
- 11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Wednesday, May 4th

- 6:30 – Choir Practice

Sunday, May 8th :- Fourth Sunday of Easter

- 9:45 – Sunday School for all ages (will return soon)
- 11:00 – Worship (In-Person & Live Stream)

Session

Moderator: Rev. Jon Phillips

Clerk: Randy Cousins

Treasurer: Glenn Patterson

Class of 2022:

Bill Abplanalp
Helen Brown
Tina Patterson

Class of 2023:

Chip Allen
Randy Cousins
Shelby Smith

Class of 2024:

Karen Maxwell
Kim Snyder
Tracey Troxler

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love learn serve



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Staff

Transitional Pastor: Rev. Jon Phillips – pastor@bethanypreschurch.org

Chaplain: Rick Purcell – chaplain@bethanypreschurch.org

Director of Music: Christopher Bagley – music@bethanypreschurch.org

Office Administrator: Joy Saleeby – admin@bethanypreschurch.org

Bookkeeper: Pam Hurt – finance@bethanypreschurch.org

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Bethany Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

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